

Redstone Rocket

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to race medals
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Army travel rules not fly-by-night

*Avoid common mistakes
when traveling for duty*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Traveling for the government is big business. Some people here spend much of their time on the road or in the air going from one place to another for temporary duty.

There are certain things they can do to make their trip easier and potentially less costly.

Travelers at Redstone must use the commercial travel office, the Scheduled Airlines Traffic Office, for their air reservations or rental car. When traveling they should have a DD form 1610 travel order or an Internet Reengineered Automated Travel System trip record. The travel

See **Travel** on page 7



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SERVICE WITH SMILE— Travel consultant Kay Seay of Sato Travel gives an airline ticket to a government traveler.

Command opens window for separation bonuses

*Reshape offer good
through Sept. 2*

PERSONNEL AND TRAINING RELEASE

The Aviation and Missile Command has opened a reshape Voluntary Early Retirement Authority/Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay application window Aug. 26 to Sept. 2 for employees interested in optional retirement, early retirement or resignation from the federal service with a bonus.

The command is offering VERA/VSIP in an effort to place approximately 60 remaining surplus employees. The command will make the maximum effort to save all surplus employees into vacancies created by separation bonus applicants, utilizing job re-engineering and retraining as necessary.

To be eligible, applicants must meet two basic requirements. One, eligible applicants must be AMCOM employees in competitive area 1A. Competitive area 1A includes AMCOM employees who are duty stationed at Redstone Arsenal and the Huntsville area, except for Lab Demo employees, Acq Demo employees, logistics assistance representatives, and Ammunition Career Program 20 employees. Two, eligible employees must be permanently assigned to a position in one of the following categories:

- GS-12 and below positions in Competitive Area 1A, except for occupations

specifically excluded.

- Logistics management specialist positions at GS-13
- Engineer positions at grades GS-11 or GS-12
- Operations research analyst positions at grades GS-12 or GS-13
- Wage grade (WG-10 and below) and wage leader (WL-7 and below) positions.

Employees permanently assigned to any of the following positions are excluded from this reshape window: positions with positive education requirements — except GS-11/12 engineers and GS-12/13 operations research analysts — such as attorneys, accountants, auditors, engineers, scientists and contract/procurement specialists; positions in other competitive areas (Lab Demo, Acq Demo, LARS, CP-20, etc.); inventory management specialists at GS-11 or GS-12; traffic management positions at GS-11 or GS-12; and GG positions.

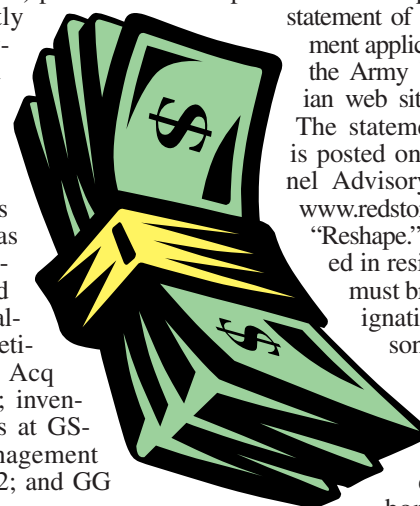
All approved applicants must be off the rolls by Sept. 30. This date cannot be extended.

When approved for a buyout of up to \$25,000, a worker leaves to save someone who might have been separated involuntarily. The buyout amount is based on the same formula used to calculate severance pay.

Interested employees should apply in person during the open window, through Sept. 2, weekdays only, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to Carol Garner or Wilma Wheeler, in building 5308, room 8137, workstations 81A013 or 81A014.

Employees interested in optional or early retirement with the bonus must bring a completed retirement application and a signed statement of understanding. Retirement applications are available on the Army Benefits Center-Civilian web site, www.abc.army.mil. The statement of understanding is posted on the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center web page, www.redstone.army.mil/cpo under "Reshape." Employees interested in resigning with the bonus must bring a completed Resignation Request for Personnel Action from his or her administrative office and a signed statement of understanding. Employees approved for the bonus will be notified the week of Sept. 8.

The Personnel and Training Directorate will conduct a reshape VERA/VSIP briefing for AMCOM employees in Competitive Area 1A today at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Managers and supervisors are encouraged to allow eligible and interested employees to attend.



Letters to the editor

Donor's gift saves child

On a cold mid-December night, a small child (less than 2 years old) was riding in a car with her parents. They had just visited the child's grandparents and everyone was looking forward to Christmas in the next week. The little child was too young to enjoy her first Christmas, so this would be the first real Christmas for the little girl. All the Christmas presents stored away in the trunk of the car waiting for Christmas Day.

As their car passed on intersection, another car did not stop at their stop sign, but drove into the front fender of the car that the child was riding. The child was sitting on the mother's lap; both mother and child were thrown forward toward the dash. The mother's head broke the windshield; the child was forced through the glass. As the cars stopped, the child was forced back through the windshield. The child received a cut on the right side of her face and a severe cut on her throat. The mother placed her hand and a piece of material on the child's throat to keep the cut closed, as much as possible.

The property owner, where both cars collided, decided to take the child and her parents to the hospital instead of waiting for the ambulance. He drove as fast as he could, thinking that he might wreck or that the child might die before

they reached the hospital. After they arrived at the hospital, the doctor had to start giving the child blood first before they could start sewing up the child's face. All of the veins in her arms had collapsed; the veins in her throat would not do, so they cut her right ankle to find a vein that had not collapsed, to start giving her blood.

The child survived the accident with more than 100 stitches on her face and throat and the blood transfusion.

If you have received blood, you do not need to be the receiver only; if you can, you need to be a giver of blood, too. This writer intends to give blood any time now, when she can. You see ... I am the little girl that was in the accident.

I am thankful for the man that took my family to the hospital; the doctor and nurses that worked on me to save my life; and the blood donor that gave the blood that I received. For without the blood that the doctors gave me, I would have died. The doctor stated that if the cut in my throat had been the thickness of a cigarette paper deeper or if I had arrived at the hospital more than 10 minutes later, I would have bled to death.

If you have not been a receiver or giver, you could be some day.

Virginia Moore
Army Audit Agency

Memorial needs parking space

Read your story on the Veteran's Memorial. Since I am a Vietnam veteran and would love to go to this memorial, there is one little problem that I read in the story. This 12-member foundation to me is not planning for parking. The areas that they want, where would the people park?

I don't want to park blocks away or pay for parking and have to walk to see this memorial. What is wrong with getting it down at Hunt Park? We already have a museum there and the people could see everything at one time.

Ronald E. Sheaffer
retired Army

Editor's note: Jim Rountree, a member of the foundation's board of directors, said five sites have been prioritized for this future memorial. At the top of the list is Big Spring Park. "As part of our

discussion, it has always included free parking," he said. "The city is going to work with us in getting free parking there at the Big Spring site. Of course if we end up at John Hunt, there's plenty of free parking at that site."

Parking may be an issue at other prospective sites. "It's a valid point but it is a part of our planning," Rountree said.

Quote of the week

'If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.'

— Jimmy Durante, entertainer

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

Aug. 15 — A retired soldier reported that he lost his military identification card while in the Post Exchange parking area. A search of the area met with negative results.

Aug. 15 — A soldier reported that she was assaulted during a domestic dispute at her residence. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Aug. 16 — A soldier was found to be carrying a concealed weapon during an inspection of his vehicle at Gate 10. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

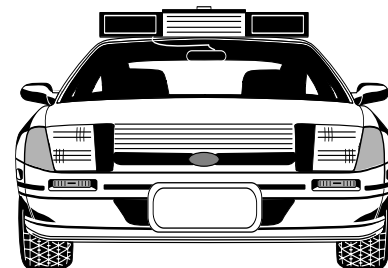
Aug. 17 — An individual reported that someone damaged his vehicle while it was parked in the parking area of building 4140. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Aug. 18 — An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license, no proof of liability insurance and an improper license plate during an inspection of his vehicle at Gate 3. He was issued a violation notice for each offense and released.

Aug. 18 — A soldier reported that he lost his military identification card while at a park located on Monte Sano Boulevard.

Aug. 18 — A contractor reported that someone removed more than \$3,000 worth of tools from a construction site on Redstone Road. Investigation continues by Criminal Investigation Division Command.

Aug. 18 — An individual reported that someone removed \$18 from her desk which was left unsecured at building



5301. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Aug. 18 — An individual was found to be operating her motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol during an inspection of her vehicle at Gate 9. The individual was transported to the Provost Marshal Office where she was issued a violation notice and then held until her blood alcohol level reached a legal limit.

Aug. 19 — A soldier reported that while he was away from his quarters, a friend of his had damaged clothing, furniture and his vehicle. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Aug. 20 — A soldier reported that someone removed a pressure washer from his carport at his quarters which belonged to the government. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Aug. 20 — A soldier reported that he had lost his personal cellular telephone in the area of the dining facility.

Aug. 20 — An individual was detained at the Post Exchange after he was observed removing items for which he

See Crimes on page 3

An open lane random survey

What do you think about the Advance Child Tax Credit?

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net



Sgt. Toboffii Short,
Delta Company

"It puts money back into the economy to try and help people."



Jeff Burns,
fireman driver/operator

"I like it. It's nice getting the money back sometimes."

Alphadella McRae, DoD civilian



"I think it's a good thing. But I don't know, in the long run, if it's a good thing."

Lt. Col. Portia Brandon-McCraw,
Fort Monroe, Va

"I think it was a good thing to do. It helps people who really need the money and have worked hard to earn that. I think we deserve to have that money back"



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Logistics Support Activity marks decade of service



Mary Petty/Photo Lab

LOGSA ANNIVERSARY— Cutting the cake are, from left, retired Col. Ronald Hyatte; Col. Kurt Weidenthal, LOGSA commander; Billie Turmenne and Ronald Treusdell, retired members of the Senior Executive Service.

Research center focuses on quality issues

More than 75 leaders share lessons learned

The Research Development and Engineering Center held a Quality Summit Aug. 5 to address, in an open forum, issues that have negatively impacted quality in the aerospace and defense industry and to benchmark best industry practices.

More than 75 quality leaders in the government, defense industry, and commercial sector attended the summit. In addition to presentations in six quality areas, a Graybeard Panel presented insights and lessons learned from their combined more than 175 years of experience.

The summit was held in the Electronic Meeting Systems facility allowing the audience to interact and communicate

with the speaker and other attendees in real time via networked computers. Input gained from this summit will be used to develop a strategic plan for quality improvement that will support the needs of the project manager customer base and provide better products for soldiers.

"Feedback from the participants indicates the summit was a resounding success," Tony Hodgins, associate director for Engineering Directorate, said. "All of the speakers were excellent and the online capability of the EMS facility allowed participants to interact and provide over 200 comments in real time. This is just the initial effort in teaming with industry, our customer base, and other government agencies to 'raise the bar' on quality. A tremendous amount of work remains. Subsequent forums will focus on specific quality issues."

By DEBBIE BAUGH
For the Rocket

The Logistics Support Activity celebrated its 10th anniversary Aug. 12 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

This celebration included a presentation by LOGSA commander Col. Kurt Weidenthal highlighting LOGSA's formation, support to Operation Iraqi Freedom and LOGSA's future vision.

Logistics Support Activity came into existence as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Acts of 1989 and 1991. The purpose of the merger was twofold: to develop one logistics entity from five separate reporting activities, serving as a single team with one logistics vision for the Army, and to increase the ability of Army Materiel Command to support the Army and provide effective and efficient support with fewer resources.

The result of BRAC led to the replacement of the Logistics Control Activity located at the Presidio, San Francisco, the Material Readiness Support Activity from Lexington, Ky., the Catalog Data Activity from New Cumberland, Pa., the Logistics Assistance Program Activity from Alexandria, Va., the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center which remained in Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa., and the Major Item Information Center from Chambersburg, Pa.

Ronald Treusdell, senior executive, led the transition of these six organizations to form the LOGSA with an effective merger date of Oct. 1, 1992. He planted the flag of the LOGSA headquarters on Redstone

Arsenal on March 22, 1993 and served as LOGSA's first executive director until 1994.

LOGSA's formation as a result of combining the separate reporting activities also involved moving more than 66 stove-piped databases requiring separate passwords for most. As a result, the Logistics Ingrated Database was initiated in 1996 under Billie Turmenne, LOGSA's executive director from 1994-97, to streamline the legacy systems. The new LIDB and LOGSA's key capabilities continued to be extensively marketed around the globe by future commanders to include Col. Ronald Hyatte, from 1997-99. Key integration initiatives continued during Col. Jerry Warnement's command, from 1999 to 2001, with GCSS-A and LMP.

Under Weidenthal's command, key initiatives include the release of WEBLIDB, increasing accessibility to Warfighters around the globe; continued enhancements to the WebLOG, a web-based tool to provide summary level reports to key LIDB modules; development and fielding of the Parts Tracker, a tool that provides real-time, plain English status of requisitions in the military and commercial pipeline, and LOGSA's most current development of the Readiness Predictive Analyzer, designed to provide predicted readiness rates for all divisions of all Status of Resource and Training System equipment.

LOGSA's future vision includes a significantly increased role in performing analysis turning reported data and information into useful information, knowledge and real logistics solutions.

■ Provost Marshal Office reports activities

Crimes

continued from page 2

did not render proper payment. The individual was issued a violation notice and released by members of the Provost Marshal Office.

Aug. 21 — Two individuals working at the Commissary were detained after an inspection of their vehicles revealed several hundred dollars worth of items which they had taken from the Commissary.

Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Aug. 21 — An individual working at building 4488 reported that she had received threatening telephone calls from another individual. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 6; parking violation, 7; failure to obey traffic control device, 3; improper registration, 1; driving with a suspended/revoked/canceled driver's license, 1; no proof of liability insurance, 1; and trespassing, 4.

Space, missile defense weapons take center stage

Sixth annual conference draws crowd downtown

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.v Vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Defense contractors, soldiers, Army civilians, education representatives and others converged on the Von Braun Center Aug. 18-21.

It was the sixth annual Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition.

There were 899 attendees and 2,500 exhibitors on Aug. 19, according to Jeanne Weaver of Sigma Services. She coordinated registration and administration for the event.

"I think it's been interesting," attendee Barbara Haynes of General Accounting Office in Huntsville said. "Some of the information I've heard before. Some things are new ideas or things I wasn't aware of. And it's interesting to talk to the people that have booths, learn a little bit more about what they're doing."

"I think it's great," Mike Kelly of Science Applications International Corporation said. "It's an opportunity for a lot of diverse groups to get together under one roof, a chance to network and hear some good speakers — especially for small businesses."

Among the hardware on static display was the Surface Launched Advanced Medium Range Air to Air Missile, the



Photo by Skip Vaughn

AFTERNOON SESSION— Mike Schexnayder, left, associate director for aviation and missile systems at the Research Development and Engineering Center, talks with George Williams, a senior consultant at Colsa.

Army's land version of a missile used by the Air Force and Navy. The objective force air defense weapon system is designed to counter cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, rotary wing and fixed wing threats to maneuver forces and fixed assets.

"We're currently in source selection (for SLAMRAAM)," Col. Richard De Fatta, project manager for Short Range Air Defense, said. "We hope for a contract award before the end of the fiscal year, working on it."

Mike Schexnayder, associate director for aviation and missile systems at the Research Development and Engineering Center, was



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON DISPLAY— From left logistics specialist Bob Rettman of Madison Research Corporation explains the SLAMRAAM system to consultant George Cameron and systems engineer Dennis Quirao, both of 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

among the afternoon speakers Aug. 19. He gave an overview of RDEC's support to cruise and theater missile defense.

"We provide service to the customer," Schexnayder said. "That is job one to us. We want to make our customers successful."

Scooter technology finds way to weapon system

Guidance package has multiple use

The future of low-cost, lightweight inertial sensors rolled into Redstone Arsenal on two wheels last week in the form of a Segway Human Transporter.

BAE Systems' Inertial Products provides the inertial measurement technology that helps keep the Segway HT upright and also underpins the stability and intelligent braking systems in hundreds of thousands of automobiles. Now BAE is working with the Research Development and Engineering Center to bring the commercial technology to the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System.

Formerly an unguided 2.75-inch rocket, the APKWS uses the same silicon gyro technology in its guidance package that is used in the Segway HT. The addition of the guidance package will transform the rocket from an unguided area weapon to one with precision strike capability.

The RDEC received a Segway HT from BAE Systems during a ceremony at the Space and Missile Defense Conference in Huntsville last week. Dr. Bill McCorkle, director of RDEC, accepted the HT on behalf of the organization.

"A goal of the Army is to make increasing use of COTS (commercial off the shelf) equipment, such as these silicon MEMS gyros, which were

designed initially for commercial use," he said.

The BAE systems gyroscope uses a vibrating silicon ring in place of a spinning wheel, as in a conventional mechanical gyro. The silicon gyro is combined with other sensors and electronics to create an inertial measurement unit that is less than 4 cubic inches in size, weighs less than 4 ounces, can be launched from a gun and costs a fraction of its conventional counterpart.

Editor's note: This story was adapted from a BAE Systems release.



Photo by Kristi Armstrong

SEGWAY— Dr. Bill McCorkle takes the Segway for a spin at the SMDC conference last week. In the background are John Lydiard, vice president of BAE Systems, and Carlyn Frazier, project manager for the APKWS.

Bearcat One leads fleet in hydraulics testing

Helicopter flight sensors record data for engineers

By **KEN WEGRZYN** and **ALAN YESKE**
For the Rocket

So ends another flight for Bearcat One, a CH-47D assigned to the Aviation Technical Test Center lead-the-fleet program at Fort Rucker.

Bearcat One has just completed the second of two flights supporting the AMCOM Hydraulics Contamination Control Program. The aircraft was carrying an instrumentation package developed by the Aviation and Missile Command, Aviation Engineering Directorate, Propulsion Systems Branch and Westar Corporation. Mark Jeude, the branch chief who is also chairman of the HCCP IPT, has been tasked to assemble a team to investigate problems with contamination in aircraft hydraulic systems and its effect on the flight controls. Propulsion systems branch and Westar personnel have been an integral part of the HCCP team for the past two years.

As part of the program the HCCP team had to know what goes on with all the hydraulic system components under dynamic flight conditions, while the aircraft was performing typical mission requirements. Bearcat One, flown by a flight crew from ATTC, was instrumented with sensors to measure hydraulic fluid flow, pressure, temperature, pressure differential across the hydraulic filter, vibra-

tion, system G-forces, and hydraulic pump ripple effect. An inline test port for particle counting, measuring how clean or contaminated the fluid is, was also installed with the instrumentation package to get real time information on fluid cleanliness while the aircraft was running.

The two, two-hour flights were “piggy-back” to the flights the lead-the-fleet aircraft normally perform. This means that there was no additional funding required for the flight hours that the HCCP used to conduct its tests on the hydraulic system. During the two flights, more than 10 gigabytes of data was recorded. Over the next few months this data will be reduced to a useable format so engineers from AED propulsion systems branch can analyze it and get a look into the aircraft hydraulic system to see how the system and fluid is performing.

“There are a lot of benefits other AMCOM projects can get by using our aircraft and flight hours if it is planned and coordinated correctly,” Mike McFalls, program manager for lead-the-fleet, said.

The data gained from this effort will be analyzed and used for future filter and component improvements. The flight environment can now be programmed into the controller for the hydraulic testing facility now being built by Redstone Technical Test Center. This facility will be state-of-the-art with a hydraulic test stand that will replicate the conditions of components of the aircraft system in a flight environment.

Artillery rocket gets high marks in Fort Sill test

HIMARS system connects digitally

By BILL MCARDLE
For the Rocket

Under the sweltering skies of Fort Sill, Okla., (a staggering 106 degrees in the shade), the Product Management Office Field Artillery Launchers, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, supervised an exciting technology demonstration Aug. 7 that successfully premiered straight-line digital communication connectivity directly between a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launcher and several target acquisition systems in a series of live-fire tactical scenarios.

This streamlined digital communications linkage, known as the enhanced HIMARS Command and Control system, demonstrated the technical feasibility of incorporating the Army's emerging technological and doctrinal concept known as "Sensor-to-Effects" into the HIMARS launcher.

The purpose of this Army required Future Combat System level of technology is to efficiently link, through automated on-board communication nodes and fire control computer suites, the genuine "eyes-on" initiator of a request for fire support with an artillery weapon platform crew that delivers the lethal munitions. This technology gives Current and Future Forces the capability to engage time criti-



Photo by Scott McGill/Lockheed Martin

BLAST OFF— MLRS rockets engage an acquired threat force target during the HIMARS enhanced Command and Control demonstration at Fort Sill, Okla.

cal, high priority targets quickly with current and future Multiple Launch Rocket System family of munitions, such as the Army Tactical Missile System and the Guided MLRS.

The sensor that initiates the fire mission can also assess and report back the target's battle damage or the actual munitions' effects; this linkage sequence is known as S-T-E. The goal of the S-T-E doctrine is to dramatically reduce any unnecessary lag time between the physical act of requesting immediate engagement of a target and the actual engagement time when precision artillery fires land on and defeat the threat. Although rudimentary S-T-E technologies have

been examined and demonstrated in recent years within the Army, this was the first time that readily available hardware/software technologies were used and demonstrated in a live-fire event. It is envisioned that with only minor additional development and experimentation, the HC2 suite can be incorporated into the HIMARS and fielded either in concert with or shortly after the systems 2005 initial fielding to the XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery, Fort Bragg, N.C.

During the Fort Sill field demonstration, the PM FAL was supported by the Marine Corps' on-post experimental contingent known as the HIMARS Training Unit and reservists, undergoing HIMARS initial training, from Fox Battery 2/14 Marines from Oklahoma City. Primary contractual support was provided by TELOS Corporation (headquartered in Lawton, Okla.) who designed the HC2 hardware and software by emulating their popular and reliable MLRS Fire Direction System predecessor system. Morgan Research Corporation (Huntsville) and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control (Dallas, Texas) provided key technical supervision and launcher system integration.

From tactically concealed hide areas and firing points bordering Fort Sill's West Range, HIMARS launchers executed a series of three-rocket fire mission cycles that showed relative timeline comparison between traditional artillery/MLRS fire mission chain timelines to the more time efficient S-T-E linkage. The Marine crews accurately and safely launched 12 MLRS Reduced Range Practice Rockets during the demo and preceding rehearsal period.

The S-T-E live-fire proof of principle amply demonstrated the time savings gained by utilizing an established direct on-board digital linkage between an observer and launcher via the HC2 as compared to the distribution of fire mission requests transmitted through traditional hierarchical command and control nodes.

The first S-T-E mission was initiated by a Q-36 counter-fire radar simulating the acquisition of incoming enemy artillery rocket and cannon munition trajectories. The second S-T-E mission replicated a "call-for-fire" initiated by a Special Operations long-range patrol observer using an Army standard ruggedized handheld computer to report the map location of an enemy high value target. Both sensors communicated digital fire missions directly with the HIMARS launcher. The HIMARS then provided digital fire mission status reports back to each sensor.

In attendance for the event were Fort Sill's Commanding General and "Chief of the Field Artillery" Maj. Gen. Michael

Maples and Redstone's Program Executive Officer for Tactical Missiles Brig. Gen. Jeffery Sorenson. Both leaders were satisfied with the performance of the HC2 and launcher technologies.

"I want to minimize the amount of time from the time I see the target to the time I bring the effects to bear," Maples said on the intended use of this technology in the Field Artillery supporting of maneuver units. "All I can do to compress and reduce that, the more likely I am to engage a time-sensitive target or one that poses a danger to the forces."

Lt. Col. Darryl Colvin, the product manager for the HIMARS, was also pleased with not only the performance of the new HC2 but also with the HIMARS launcher. The system is still undergoing a period of planned upgrades and testing to ensure that new technologies being incorporated into the launcher, in a spiral-development process, during low-rate initial production are reliable and fault-free.

"Our new HC2 technology now puts at our finger tips the capability for HIMARS and the M270A1 to support the Army's Current and Future Force platform integration requirements," Colvin said. "This capability provides the maneuver force commanders a very quick and responsive means to precisely attack 'time sensitive targets' that need to be knocked out immediately."

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, the HIMARS participated in S-T-E type operations that were conducted by effectively combining our launchers equipped with the Army Tactical Missile System and strategic level observers. Although this pairing worked superbly, a direct digital linkage to the observer would have made our current capability even more responsive ... coupled with GMLRS a direct digital linkage would provide an extremely responsive and lethal capability."

The HIMARS, built by Lockheed Martin, is in low-rate initial production. The first launcher deliveries begin in mid 2004. These first few platforms will be used for initial operational testing during a ground phase at Fort Sill and a flight phase at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., in the fourth quarter of fiscal '05. The Precision Fires Project Office plans to also include the new GMLRS in the HIMARS flight OT during the latter part of 2004. The GMLRS supercharges the HIMARS kill-ratios because of the munitions' accuracy.

In March 2005, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, XVIIIth Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, will be the first unit to receive the HIMARS system.

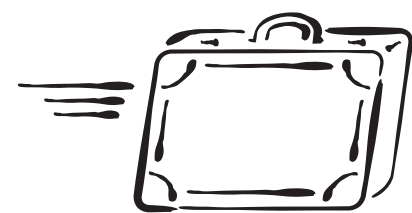
Editor's note: Bill McArdle is a support contractor with System Studies & Simulation Inc. for the PFRMS Project/HIMARS Product offices.

Travel

continued from page 1

office uses those to make sure the individual has authorization to travel. The traveler should ensure his or her order is approved two days before the scheduled departure.

"You're supposed to use your government travel card for food or hotel. And definitely you have to put your airline ticket, rental car, hotel, all of that on your government credit card," Janice Nash, software project leader for the Internet Reengineered Automated Travel System, said. She works for contractor Jacob Sverdrup in support of the Corporate Information Center.



Once the ticket is issued, the traveler should deal with the travel office rather than the airline if problems arise. The travel office can resolve a problem faster, such as canceling a ticket and getting a refund.

"When they travel they have to keep their receipt for the airline ticket, hotel, rental car and any other combined expense greater than \$75," Nash said. Travelers don't need receipts for meals because they get a per diem rate for that based on the area's cost of living.

Each organization should have a standard operating procedure to clarify any miscellaneous expenses such as phone calls. Travelers should know those rules before they leave.

"My biggest thing is make sure your approver's aware of what you're trying to do," Gary Paseur, chief of managerial accounting in Resource Management Directorate, said. "Just know the rules upfront before you go."

"When in doubt of what you can and can't do, call the (IRATS) help desk for verification" at 876-2291, option 1, Nash said. Most travel is handled on this automated system which began in 1996. But any travel outside the continental U.S. is done manually with form 1610 orders through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Sato Travel handled 32,756 commercial airline tickets, representing about \$17.5 million, from last October until the end of July. New contract air fares, not yet released, will begin Oct. 1.

"There's been a lot of changes with the airlines since Sept. 11th (terrorist attacks), with security and all that stuff," transportation specialist Lynn Sparks, contracting officer representative for Sato, said. "They've started to crack down. Your ID and the name on your ticket have to match. That's one of the things we have a lot of trouble with."

Sato Travel representatives will visit organizations upon request and give briefings to travelers. To request a briefing, call

Sparks at 876-1974.

She pointed out that the Joint Travel Regulation has changed and now says travelers must use the commercial travel office to book their airline reservation and rental cars. "If they would happen to have a car accident, the rental car company is responsible for getting it fixed," Sparks said. "For the most part, we can get the rental car company to cover the damage."

So, travelers shouldn't make the mistake of purchasing insurance for a rental car because it's already part of the contract with the rental car vendor. If the traveler pays for extra insurance, that won't be reimbursed.

Another common mistake is trying to claim mission-related expenses on a travel voucher. "You can claim that on another (type) voucher and still get reimbursed for it," Nash said.

Travelers who make their own hotel reservations might find that the travel office has also made reservations, resulting in a hotel charging for one night because of non-cancellation. This is a common mistake by travelers, according to Nash. The help desk can resolve problems like this.

And travelers should ensure their government credit card is still valid before making their trip. Also, they should make sure they let the IRATS system know of any change in direct deposit location or account. "That is a big problem," Nash said. In one case, a man had gotten divorced and changed his bank account without notifying the travel office. His \$2,000 travel settlement went into his old direct deposit account. Fortunately, his ex-wife reimbursed him.

Travelers should make sure they get their travel approved before they go and make sure they have a ticket, Nash advised. And approvers can share in liability if they OK a fraudulent expense or something that is not cost effective to the government.

"So approvers, before they sign off, should be looking at the receipts because when Triple-A comes to audit, they don't play," Nash said. "And the record can be audited for up to six years. They are now accountable for the dollars they approve and can be held libel."

Members of the Comanche Project Office are among Redstone's most frequent travelers. "Probably some of them (travel) 75 percent of the time," Pat Niehaus, the deputy project manager's secretary, said. "We do a lot of traveling. I mean some do none but you've got others who travel a lot."

CWO 4 Steven Sanders, assistant project manager for Comanche special projects, has traveled every week lately. He was gone 218 days on TDY last year. Since arriving at Redstone in December 1999, he said, he appreciates having secretaries to do his travel orders for him. That wasn't true at his old job at Fort Knox, Ky. "As you become more senior, you get more help in doing your travel," he said.

But his worst trip ever was just last year when he flew 22 hours to Korea on an airline commercial flight with an L-class ticket. "L-class seats are defined on the airplane," Sanders said. "So you will sit in the back near the toilet if you have an L-class ticket."

Family conference delegate roots for improvements

Michelle DeGroot represents post

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Today's Army is ever-changing. Areas that need improvement are identified, solutions proposed and changes are implemented. But how do Army leaders know what is needed at each widespread installation? It's simple: They ask.

Individual posts decide what changes or improvements would work best for them. Some are handled at the installation level; others must be forwarded to higher headquarters. The posts send representatives to a regional conference where they explain the issues directly affecting their community and present proposed solutions.

This year Redstone was represented by Michelle DeGroot at the Army Materiel Command Army Family Action Plan Con-



Photo by Kelley Lane

BACK HOME— Michelle DeGroot plays with one of the reasons she is involved with the Army Family Action Plan, her youngest daughter, Christina.

ference in Fort Belvoir, Va., July 15-18. The four-day meeting of the minds decided on the 16 most important issues and

forwarded them on to the Department of the Army Conference, including four from Redstone. They included changes to the computation of child-care fees, survivor benefit plan offsets, and improvements to Tricare in the form of mileage reimbursement and a maximum allowable charge increase.

DeGroot was chosen to be the sole representative from Redstone when the installation conference was held in February. It was the first time she had assumed such a position at this level. The issues she was there to promote are personal to DeGroot.

DeGroot spent four years in the Army herself. She has two little girls, Brittany and Christina. Her husband, SSgt. Kenneth DeGroot, will be headed toward retirement in the upcoming years. The issues that are not already a part of her daily life are in her not so distant future.

"All the issues are near to me," DeGroot said. "But especially the issues dealing with children."

Another important issue to DeGroot came from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. "It was commissary privileges for non-custodial parents, for the children," she said. "If the military sponsor does not have custody of the kids, the children cannot go into the commissary with the non-custodial parent. Most kids have ID cards when they're 10, but not all the time is 'commissary' put on their cards. In my case I have little ones, they would not be able to get into the commissary at this point unless something is done about it. That was a big issue."

Larry Leggett, quality of life program manager and AFAP coordinator at Redstone, stresses that community involvement is what makes the conferences work.

"The AFAP program relies heavily upon community paid staff and volunteers to participate in the planning, organizing and execution of the annual conferences," he said. "It is my sincere desire to take this opportunity to once again thank all those who helped make the (Redstone Arsenal AFAP 2003 Conference a huge success. The conference would not be possible without the dedication and outstanding skills of the facilitators, records, transcribers, and issue support persons. In addition, many thanks go to the delegates for the laborious work in prioritizing issues."

The next step for the forwarded issues that require authority beyond their region will be the Department of the Army AFAP conference, slated for November. DeGroot will attend it as well, if scheduling conflicts allow. Preparations for Redstone's next installation conference, Jan.13-14, are already being made. DeGroot will be serving on the committee for that. It has been an experience she would recommend to others and urges them to participate.

"I really enjoyed it," DeGroot said. "I got to meet a lot of different people from different areas. We all pulled together and brought out a lot of important issues. Without people suggesting things, the Army will not be able to change."

Course delivers big picture for lab newcomers

Students complete research project

Dr. Bill McCorkle, director of the Research Development and Engineering Center, presented the "Best Presentation" award to Team Hotel members and their sponsor after the University of Alabama in Huntsville "Big Picture" course.

The course was developed to increase the knowledge of new employees within RDEC on how and why things get done within the RDEC community and the new RDE Command.

Students attended two separate sessions and in between completed a class project to develop a concept presentation within an area that Science and Technology deemed important to future systems that might be required by RDEC customers.

Brooke Kreikemeier, a summer intern from St. Louis University, Jeff Maddox of Aviation Engineering, Rick McCann of Systems Simulation Development, Mythanh Nguyen of Engineering, Brian O'Rourke of Aviation Engineering and Josh Williams of Systems Simulation Development were members of Team Hotel. Their sponsor for development of the winning presentation was Angie Kielsmeier of Technical Management.

The pilot course had two one-week sessions. The first week was July 14-17 and the second was Aug. 11-14. In the intervening weeks, course attendees, divided into teams, worked a real-life class project. Team Hotel's project was judged to be the best.



Courtesy photo

AWARD PRESENTATION— From left are Josh Williams, Dr. Bill McCorkle, Jeff Maddox, Brian O'Rourke, Brooke Kreikemeier, Angie Kielsmeier and Rick McCann.

Soldier theatrical company looking for performers

MORALE WELFARE AND RECREATION RELEASE

The Army Community and Family Support Center and Army Entertainment Division seek nominations for active duty soldiers to serve as cast and crew for the FY '04 winter production. "BRAVO!" is an all soldier theatrical company, bringing the finest in theatrical arts to deployed soldiers and other DoD servicemembers worldwide.

Selected BRAVO! cast and crew members will rehearse from Oct. 1 to Nov. 6 at Fort Belvoir, Va., and open at Wallace The-

atre. BRAVO! will then tour the Southwest Asia region from Nov. 12 to Jan. 4 and the Far East region from Jan. 5 to Feb. 23.

Commanders or field directors should recommend soldiers who are mature, intelligent and have a good understanding of team play.

For more information or questions, contact Tim Higdon at DSN 656-3698, cell 703-926-9293, e-mail: timothy.higdon@cfsc.army.mil or BRAVO NCO-in-charge, Sgt. Tobin Atkinson, DSN 656-3702, e-mail: tobin.Atkinson@cfsc.army.mil.

Joe Leavell, DSN 367-3084, Leavelljt@forscom.army.mil, can also provide more information.

Letterkenny Depot workers answer call for Avenger

Twenty-four Letterkenny Army Depot employees were recently honored at an awards ceremony for their outstanding support of Avenger during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Richard De Fatta, Short Range Air Defense project manager at Redstone Arsenal, presented certificates of appreciation. The Letterkenny, Pa., employees were recognized for their support to soldiers manning the Avenger missile system during recent combat operations in Iraq.

"Employees at Letterkenny were a part of the total team and played an integral role in the success achieved during Operation Iraqi Freedom," De Fatta said.

The Avenger is an air defense missile system consisting of a pedestal mounted Stinger missile battery that operates from a Humvee chassis. Avenger provides protection to rear echelon units and command posts against low-altitude and high-speed airplanes and helicopters.

Oktoberfest swings into action Sept. 11-14

Annual German festival offers carnival rides, authentic foods, music

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
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Redstone's eighth annual Oktoberfest is only two weeks away. As the signs are posted and announcements are made, lots of people wonder why the Oktoberfest is scheduled in September.

For the same reason October is spelled with a "k." That's the way the Germans do it.

"September is when the actual Oktoberfest in Germany begins," Dan Ahern, director of personnel and community activities, said. "It ends in October. We just don't have the endurance to go that long."

Maybe not, but for four days, Sept. 11-14, Redstone will become a mecca for authentic German culture, from the Soldatenstube's schnitzel, brotchen, and a

variety of wursts, to the bellow of the alp horn beckoning lederhosen-clad dancers.

Terry Cavanaugh & the Alpine Express Band will be the featured evening entertainment under the big tent, or Festhalle, while the Moonlighters, a polka band, will provide Saturday afternoon entertainment from 1-5 p.m. Two youth bands, Degenerate and Drag Down First, will also perform.

Crafters' tables loaded with handmade wares can be found under another large tent on the fairgrounds, surrounded by food stands and carnival rides and games. Military equipment, supplied by the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, will be on display all day Sept. 13.

"We're hoping to sign up at least 20 craft vendors or more," Ahern said. Those interested should call Brandie DeRemer at 313-1203.

Last year's event brought about 16,000 people to the Arsenal, a good crowd considering it was the first year since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In previous years, the crowd registered about 20,000 for the four-day event.

"The neat thing about this fest is that it's a best value — anywhere," Ahern said. "You pay admission at the gate and get all the rides and entry into the Festhalle to hear the entertainment. Free rides, free parking. You just pay for the food and drink."

Admission is \$8 on Sept. 11 from 5-11 p.m.; \$10 on Sept. 12 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.; \$10 on Sept. 13 from noon to 1 a.m.; and \$8 Sept. 14 from 1-8 p.m. Coupons for \$2 off gate admission are posted on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation web site, printed on fliers and in The Huntsville Times.

"We're doing heavy couponing," Ahern said. "What's already a great value, the coupon makes it an even better value, for an event that appeals to a wide audience — families, grandparents, teenagers. This is a great time of year to get out and have some fun. We're looking forward to seeing a lot of people out this year."

The event is open to the public. Enter through Gate 10, Jordan Lane/Patton Road. No badge or auto decal is required.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

COMING THROUGH— There's plenty of fun for kids of all ages at Oktoberfest Sept. 11-14 at the activity field.

Crafty kid projects offered at parent workshop

Pick up how-to handouts, recipes for art activities

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
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Spotting potential in an empty soda bottle, cardboard toilet paper roll, even the leaves just beginning to fall, is Terre Corley's specialty. To the untrained eye, it looks like trash. To the creative mind, it is an empty canvas, waiting to become the Mona Lisa.

Corley, outreach clerk at ChildWise, wants to share her passion for object d'art with parents in the Redstone community at a lunchtime workshop Sept. 3 at the Youth Center.

Arts and Crafts for School Age Children is a free, hour-long program for parents of children ages 5-12, to share ideas for activities parents can do with their children, along with some recipes for making art materials.

"We're trying to do it around lunchtime so parents can come over from work and pick up some ideas and instructions sheets for a lot of different types of projects they can do at home with their kids," Corley said. "You'd be amazed at what's laying around your house that you can use to paint with — dish rags, foam from packages, sponges, leaves, sticks, rocks. Rocks can be painted with or painted on, if you can find some nice smooth stones. And kids love them."

Painting is just the beginning. Once Corley and Carolyn Taylor, training and programming specialist with Child and Youth Services, get together and start looking through the craft books, all sorts of new ideas emerge.

"We've got several really great idea books on all kinds of different crafts.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

READY, SET, PAINT— From left Terre Corley, Carolyn Taylor and Evelyn Carney pull out supplies and idea books to use in the Parent Education sponsored arts and crafts workshop for parents of children ages 5-12 at the Youth Center Sept. 3 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Things like how to make a box for box loom weaving, rubber stamping, quilting and simple needlework projects," Taylor said. "We'll have the books out and bring in some craft models of different type projects with how-to sheets beside each craft for parents to take with them."

The workshop will offer ideas on both short term and long term projects. Many of the supplies they will demonstrate can be either homemade or picked up at local stores inexpensively, according to Taylor. They will also offer their preferred recipes for play dough, paper mache', silly putty and more.

"We may even do a little hands-on project if we have time," Taylor said. "We really have a great time doing these classes and we want everyone who comes to have a good time, too."

The workshop is free and open to all Team Redstone parents but pre-registration is required. Call Taylor at 313-3609 or Corley at 876-2798.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

WHEEEEE— Children enjoy the big slide and carnival rides at the Oktoberfest.

Safety has place in front of PX, Commissary

Busy parking lot takes extra care

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The Post Exchange and Commissary are busy places where vehicles and pedestrians often share the same space. The garrison safety office, directorate of public works, and the provost marshal have been working together to ensure people coming to or exiting these facilities are not injured.

A question sometimes asked is why isn't the PX and Commissary area like Wal-Mart or other stores located off post that have sloping entrance ramps leading into the store, painted pedestrian cross walks, or speed bumps.

Redstone Arsenal, as a federal installation, has to follow Department of Defense traffic and safety rules which are sometimes different from those used by the local community and the state of Alabama.

Speed bumps were removed from the PX/Commissary roadway because they posed a significant safety hazard for pedestrians. The number of injuries being sustained by customers and commissary baggers from trips and falls was serious enough to warrant their removal, according to Bobby Taylor of the garrison safety office.



Photo by Kim Gillespie

WALK THIS WAY— Bagger Greg Douglas crosses to the commissary parking lot while Bobby Taylor of the garrison safety office and military policeman Spec. David Libby observe. The garrison safety office and the provost marshal are working together to promote driver and pedestrian safety in the Commissary and PX parking areas.

"Also, Army Regulation 420-72 (Transportation Infrastructure) prohibits the sole use of traverse ridges, speed bumps, or dips on pavement surfaces as a means for controlling or reducing the speed of traffic," Taylor said.

When driving from Vincent Road into the PX/Commissary, the speed limit is 20 mph. It then changes to 10 mph for the

roadway directly in front of the PX and Commissary. The directorate of public works will install new signs including pedestrian crossing signs for drivers, and signs warning pedestrians to look out for vehicular traffic.

The provost marshal will ensure speed limits and traffic signs are obeyed by performing patrols in the PX/Commissary

area. Seeing a military police vehicle often helps to remind drivers to slow down.

"This support from garrison law enforcement will be a big help toward accident avoidance," Taylor said.

Drivers should also use caution when backing out of PX or Commissary parking lot spaces. There have been backing incidents where a vehicle pulls out from a parking space and strikes another vehicle or passing shopping cart being pushed by a patron or bagger.

The safety office is working with Commissary management by providing safety briefings to bagger personnel to re-emphasize roadway and parking lot hazards.

"Like any other occupation on this installation, employees need to be aware of potential workplace dangers," Taylor said.

Most importantly, he urges customers to use good judgment. Parents with younger children must be especially careful. Children should always be reminded to wait for adults to cross roadways with them. All pedestrians should remember their parents' safety advice: Look both ways before crossing.

Whether leaving from or entering the PX or Commissary area, drivers, patrons and baggers must watch out for one another. For more information, call Taylor at 313-3294.

Cyclist leads pack at state, national competitions

Redstone worker winning medals

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
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Paging through a magazine, Diane Appling came across a striking photo of painting done by Thomas Pradzynski called La Cremerie. It's as if you're looking at a desolate street in 1920s Paris. The only sign of life is a row of young trees, their robust green leaves gently framing a view of the empty storefronts. In the lower right-hand corner, an empty bike rack.

When Appling first saw the painting, having never had an art class or painted a picture, she said, "I could do that."

Standing in LaFayette Park in St. Louis in 1995, Appling watched a group of cyclists race their bikes around long loops in the park, cornering sharp curves at nearly 30 mph. It was the first criterium she'd ever seen. Suddenly several racers crashed, their clothes and skin burned off as they slid across the pavement. One of the bike's front wheels was bent in half.

Looking at those racers, bleeding, clothes hanging off them, she said, "I don't think so."

Aug. 10 Appling, a logistics management specialist with the Security Assistance Management Directorate, won the gold medal in the Alabama State Criterium Championship, just a few days after placing third in the U.S.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TRAINING DAY— Diane Appling, logistics management specialist with Foreign Military Sales, trains several days a week to stay in shape for racing.

Cycling Federation Master's National Criterium in Louisville, Ky.

"I didn't grow up racing my bike around," said Appling, a Belleville, Ill., native with 26 years federal service. "I didn't even really get into biking until a few years before I moved to Huntsville. Even then, I was working toward qualifying for the Paris Brest Paris — an endurance ride, about 750 miles.

"I'd completed two of the brevets, rounding the second one up to 200 miles in one day," she said. "When I moved down with the BRAC in '97, I was looking for someone in the area who was



Courtesy photo

BREAKING AWAY— Diane Appling gives it her all during a criterium. She won first in the Alabama State Criterium Championship and third in the national competition, earlier this month.

involved in ultra distance events. I wanted to complete all four brevets to qualify."

After calling around to some local cycling clubs, Appling met a few racers from the Spring City Cycling Club who persuaded her to come out to their Tuesday night training races, conducted much like a "crit."

A criterium is a race held on a course, usually one mile or less in circumference, through city streets in a downtown area. Riders make numerous laps per race. Typical racing speeds range from

25-30 mph but during a sprint (at the finish) or a prime (a designated lap within the race in which racers can win special prizes), speeds can reach 35 mph or more. Downhills can reach up to 50 mph.

"I didn't think I was interested in racing, especially after what I'd seen at that race in St. Louis but the people were great and it was actually fun," Appling said. "Very challenging."

Before long she was competing in Southeast regional races. Her success fueled her drive to train more seriously, making a lifestyle commitment to establish goals, develop a training plan, put in the training hours, eat healthy, and get plenty of rest.

She's had her ups and downs since that first criterium. A series of illnesses that ended in surgery took her out of serious training for nearly a year. Cracked ribs, sprains, slight concussions and "serious loss of skin" during crashes have taken their toll at different times but she just kept coming back.

"I have two of the best mentors in the world," Appling said of her racing buddy Mark Slone and training coach Jack Bice, who helped her train for this year's championship races. "I took some time out earlier this season to care for a sick family member so I had to get serious quick. Normally, you start training for a target 36 weeks out. I had seven weeks to get ready. Mark and Jack were great support."

By the time the nationals came around, she felt pretty

good.

"I thought I was going to do something in these races," Appling said. "Jack and Mark thought I could medal. I definitely expected something of myself."

But there were moments, fleeting though they were, during nationals that she wanted to give up.

"At one point I thought about dropping out, but then all the sudden it lightened up, got easier and I was there for the sprint finish," she said, happy with a bronze but not quite satisfied. "My goal was to win state. I wasn't prepared to accept anything but a win at state."

Even with two medals hanging around her neck, there are still more crits to conquer, more podium walks to make.

"I'll probably race a few more times this year but my focus is on getting ready for next year," she said. "I want to wear the stars and stripes (the racing shirt given to the national champion each year)."

She's willing to work hard for it and put in the time.

And she's got a few other things to do during the slower winter months, like putting the finishing touches on the spectacular mural of Thomas Pradzynski's La Cremerie that hangs on her living room wall. Ironically, it's the empty bike rack in the lower corner that has yet to be completed.

Perhaps an empty bike rack doesn't belong on her interpretation of the perfect picture.

HHC 59th softball team avenges first loss of season

League leader wins 18-8 over Bravo

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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The HHC 59th players remembered the last time they played Bravo Company.

They were unbeaten after eight games until Bravo won 11-10 on Aug. 7. That gave them extra incentive for the Aug. 18 rematch.

This time HHC 59th prevailed 18-8 for its 11th win in 12 games.

Stephen Dix went 4-for-4 with a two-run homer, solo homer and four runs scored for the 59th. Jerry McIntyre also went 4-for-4 with a triple, three runs and two RBIs.

"It's a big redemption for us," Dix said of the win. "The big difference this time (against Bravo), we were just hitting the ball and they made a few errors."

Eric Cizmadia went 2-for-3 with two

runs scored as the Bulldogs fell to 9-5.

"We had a lot of mental errors which resulted in the loss," Bravo coach Kenneth McCoy said.

The 59th led 3-2 after the first inning but scored six runs in the second and five in the third for a 14-6 lead.

Here were the standings after the seventh week of the season: HHC 59th (14-1), Delta (11-3), Bravo (10-6), 2117th (10-6), Charlie (7-8), AMCOM (6-8), MEDDAC (6-10), Headquarters & Alpha (3-11) and Marines (3-14).

Results included:

Aug. 18 — AMCOM d. Marines 23-11, HHC 59th d. Bravo 18-8 and Delta d. AMCOM 17-1.

Aug. 19 — HHC 59th d. Charlie 25-3, Bravo d. Marines 11-0 and Headquarters & Alpha won by forfeit over AMCOM.

Aug. 20 — 2117th won by forfeit over AMCOM, HHC 59th d. Marines 10-0 and Delta d. Headquarters & Alpha 21-7.

Aug. 21 — Charlie d. Headquarters & Alpha 14-11, HHC 59th d. 2117th 22-3 and AMCOM d. Bravo 16-5.

Southern Cal should trip on the Plains

Auburn favored in season opener

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Here are my predictions for selected games this week in college football:

Southern Cal at Auburn — **Auburn**
Jacksonville State at Alabama A&M — **A&M**
South Florida at Alabama — **Bama**
Wofford at Air Force — **Air Force**
UTEP at Arizona — **Arizona**
Arkansas State at Texas A&M — **Texas A&M**
Wake Forest at Boston College — **BC**
Georgia Tech at Brigham Young — **Ga. Tech**
Southern Miss at California — **Southern Miss**
Georgia at Clemson — **Georgia**
Colorado at Colorado State — **Colorado**
Northwestern at Kansas — **Northwestern**
Troy State at Kansas State — **K-State**
Louisville at Kentucky — **Kentucky**
Louisiana-Monroe at LSU — **LSU**
Maryland at Northern Illinois — **Maryland**
Miami (Fla.) at Louisiana Tech — **Miami**
Miami (Ohio) at Iowa — **Iowa**
Central Michigan at Michigan — **Michigan**
Tulsa at Minnesota — **Minnesota**
Ole Miss at Vanderbilt — **Ole Miss**



Oregon at Mississippi St. — **Oregon**
Illinois at Missouri — **Missouri**
Virginia Military at Navy — **Va. Mil.**
Oklahoma State at Nebraska — **Neb.**
Florida State at North Carolina — **FSU**
Western Carolina at NC State — **NC State**
Washington at Ohio State — **Ohio State**
North Texas at Oklahoma — **Okl.**
Temple at Penn State — **PSU**
Rice at Houston — **Houston**
Louisiana-Lafayette at South Carolina — **SC**
Fresno State at Tennessee — **Tennessee**
New Mexico State at Texas — **Texas**
Alabama-Birmingham at Baylor — **Baylor**
Utah State at Utah — **Utah**
Central Florida at Virginia Tech — **Tech**
Wisconsin at West Virginia — **Wisconsin**
Elon at Furman — **Furman**

Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Fall bowling leagues

Redstone Lanes is gearing up for fall bowling season. Leagues are open to the Redstone community — anyone who works on, lives on or can access Redstone Arsenal. Leagues include Monday Military League, 6 p.m.; Tuesday Night Mixed, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Night Mixed, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Men's, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday Morning Ladies, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday Night Mixed, 5 p.m.; Friday OCWC Ladies, 9:15 a.m.; and Friday Night Mixed, 6 p.m. To register or for more information, call 876-6634.

Boating safety class

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct Boating Safety Classes through Sept. 25 on Thursday evenings at 6:30 in building 3305, Stillwell Hall, Zeus Drive, room 215. There is a \$22 fee to cover text and materials. This boating safety class will satisfy requirements for the state boating operator's license and can reduce the cost of boat insurance. For more information, call Tom Kunhart 885-7096 or 830-6621.

Inline hockey

Child and Youth Services will have an inline hockey clinic with its annual inline hockey league Sept. 8 through Oct. 30 for ages 6-17 at the CYS Inline Hockey Rink on Goss Road. Cost is \$100 for dependents of active/retired/reserve military,

civilians, Redstone contractors and NASA personnel. Cost is \$125 for non-government affiliated dependents who wish to play in this league. CYS Registration fee is \$15 per child or \$35 per family per year. A current physical and a copy of the child's birth certificate are required at registration. Registration continues through Aug. 30. Youth affiliated with Redstone Arsenal personnel will register at CYS, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. All others may register at S&V Sports, 3190 Leeman Ferry Road. To register or for more information, call 883-9917 or 876-3704.

Recreation volunteers

Volunteers are wanted to assist with and instruct Outdoor Recreation programs like hunting, fishing, shooting, canoeing, archery, boating, camping, hiking and special projects. Those eligible persons interested in volunteering for the 2003-04 year should apply at Outdoor Recreation, building 5132, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. For more information, call Mike 876-0901 or 876-4868.

Hunter orientations

Redstone Arsenal Hunting Orientations, for everyone planning to hunt on post, will be held at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 28, Sept. 4, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 6 and Nov. 20 at the Recreation Center, building 3711. Participants only have to attend one session. For information call Missy 876-4868 or Mike 876-0901.

Volksmarch

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the War-rant Officers Association, in conjunction with the MWR Oktoberfest, is holding a Volksmarch, Sept. 13. The start point will be at the Recreation Center, building 3711. Walkers may begin anytime from 8-11 a.m. Tickets are \$3 per walker at the start point. Adult and children's walking sticks as well as commemorative mugs will be available for purchase. And don't forget to stay when you are done walking because MWR's Oktoberfest begins at noon.

Mud volleyball tournament

The New Market Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring the "N.M.V.F.D. 2003 Mud Volleyball Tournament" at Sharon Johnston Park in New Market. Teams wanting to enter can e-mail Tim Petty, event director, at trpetty2@yahoo.com or page 517-4000. Entry fees are \$15 per player with two females on court at all times. Teams must have a minimum of eight players, all of which will get a free T-shirt, and teams are guaranteed four games before possible elimination.

Japanese swordsmanship

Interested in learned a traditional martial art? If so contact jeshern@comcast.net and www.shinkendo.com.



Conferences & Meetings

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 a.m. in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For information call 313-1478. The Redstone Arsenal group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 of Bicentennial Chapel.

Union meeting

American Federation of Government

Employees will hold its monthly meeting 5 p.m. Sept. 8 at building 3202, conference room, on Mauler Road. For an agenda, see <http://www.afge1858.org>.

Retired eagles

Retired colonels/captains with their spouses and widows of retired colonels and captains are invited for cocktails and dinner Sept. 13 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Reservations are required. These semian-nual "gatherings of retired eagles" are strictly social affairs to renew acquaintances and meet other retired O-6's from the Tennessee Valley. For more information or an invitation, call 880-6701.



Miscellaneous

Logistics course

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics is offering a 50-hour Logistics Management course. The course provides a comprehensive review of logistics, preparing interested students for the next CPL exam scheduled Nov. 1. For more information, call Joyce Bilodeau 842-9968.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesdays 9-5 and Thursdays and Fridays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-12:30. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. The Thrift Shop seeks more volunteers for Thursdays and Fridays. A "dollar-a-bag sale" on selected merchandise will be held Sept. 6. And the shop's first craft fair, to become an annual event, is Oct. 4. Signup sheets will be available at the shop. For more information, call 881-6992.

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are invited to attend at no fee. Many exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest computer hardware, software and services. For more information call Sarah Hill 1-888-603-8899, ext. 230.

Astronomical society

The Von Braun Astronomical Society and the North Alabama Science Fiction Association will jointly present Dr. Charles “Chip” Meegan and script writer Larry Nemecek in a panel on “The Astronomy of Star Trek: the Good, the Bad and the Bogus,” tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Chan Auditorium in the Administrative Sciences building on the UAH campus. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 961-

7626 or Jack Lundy 536-7160. The Von Braun Astronomical Society and NASA astronomer Dr. Robert Suggs will present “Mars Approaches — Will the Martians Panic or...?” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Wernher Von Braun Planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. For information call Adams or Lundy.

Aviation scholarships

The Army Aviation Association of America has recognized several members and family members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter by awarding them scholarships or interest free loans totaling more than

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\$36,000 for academic year 2003-04. Eligible award recipients include AAAA members (principals), their spouses, unmarried siblings, and unmarried children of current or deceased members. Recipients with ties to the Tennessee Valley Chapter include Paul Burke, Julie Cantu, Christopher Cohen, Katharine Cox, Rebecca Crosby, Kathryn Henley, Amy Jacobson, Celia Kather, Charleen Laughlin, Nichole Mason, Max Mitchell III, Ashley Morrow, Michael Spratley, Peter Stormer and Dana Yeske. AAAA awards thousands of dollars in scholarships and interest free loans to eligible individuals annually. To qualify for chapter and national awards in academic year 2005-06, principals must be members of AAAA by May 1, 2004. The Tennessee Valley Chapter has designated awards for chapter affiliation with the same one-year membership requirement. The Tennessee Valley Chapter vice president for membership is Jim Pepper 922-1211; and the chapter vice president for scholarships is Tom Harrison 964-8460

Army family team building

You're invited to make the connection with Army Family Team Building, Level I. Learn about military customs and courtesies, the chain of command/chain of concern, family and military expectations, impact of the mission on family life, benefits/entitlements/compensation, and how to support your child's education. The classes are free and open to anyone who supports an Army servicemember (spouse, parent, grandparent, significant other, guardian or friend). Come meet others new to Army life — you'll find out you're not alone and that a basic understanding of Army culture and lifestyle can open so many doors. The learning environment is casual and child care will be provided free of charge. Level I classes will be held Sept. 23-25 from 6-9 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Call 876-5397 by Sept. 12 to enroll.

Fox Army Health Center

Fox Army Health Center announces holiday hours for Labor Day. The Primary Care Extended Hours Clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to noon Friday, Saturday and Monday, Aug. 29 and 30 and Sept. 1 for scheduled appointments. All other clinics and the Pharmacy will be closed. The Health Center is closed on Sundays. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments. Access to the building may be gained through the Pharmacy entrance on the south side.

Still serving specials

The Post Exchange will honor its retired military customers with a Sept. 19-21. Shop each day for "Still Serving" specials. On Sept. 20 at 2 p.m., register to win a \$200 shopping spree at the PX. The first 300 retirees get a free gift (limit one per family). Play balloon bust from 2-3 p.m. Visit the Service Station for a Tire Sale from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Stop by the One Stop for a wine tasting event from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a spirits tasting from 1-5 p.m. All day Sept. 20, seniors enjoy free senior drinks at the Redstone Burger King. Register to win a Thomas Kincaide painting at the Furniture Store. Mark your calendars for this event in September.

9/11 tribute

A special one-hour 9/11 commemorative tribute will be held at 9 a.m. Sept. 11 in Bob Jones Auditorium for Team Redstone. The theme for the ceremony is "Americans, United We Stand, A Tribute to Freedom." For more information, call Sam Wright 955-3154 or e-mail september11@redstone.army.mil.

Bingo pack night

Challenger Bingo will have Special Pack Nights on Sept. 5 and 19 from 5:45-10 p.m. Come on out for extra games; buy one game pack and get one free, as well as free snacks. Call 837-0750/0751 for details.

Community luau

The Redstone Arsenal MWR Community Hawaiian Luau has been rescheduled for Sept. 26 from 4-8 p.m. at the Firehouse, building 115 on Hankins Road. Come on out for a Polynesian night of fun in your favorite Hawaiian outfit, grass skirt, or wild shirt. There will be a Hawaiian buffet, dancers, limbo and contests. Tickets are \$8 for adults (\$6 for NCO Club members) and \$3 for children 7-12; with free admission for children 6 and under. For more information, call Brandie DeRemer 313-1203.

Redstone Rocket Classifieds